

# Alone?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

**1 Peter 5:8-9,** "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."

This scripture speaks of a predator who is looking for someone to destroy and kill. A lion, or another predator, will seek an animal that is weak, due to injury or sickness. It will then seek to separate it from the herd where it will have no help or refuge. Death is usually the end result. Peter used the lion as an illustration for Satan's attacks on mankind. The evil one uses similar tactics to destroy people. They may not die physically, but they are in danger of dying spiritually.

How many people have let themselves be separated from the flock? They are made to feel that they are alone and that there is no help for them. When a person feels this way he will become weak and prone to the Devil's attacks. As life brings us some difficult times and trials we should look to the Lord for help. I know that often we hope that the Lord will solve all our problems without our having to do much.

It doesn't work that way, it takes faith and effort to overcome the trials of faith.

Look at Joseph in Egypt as an example. He was alone, forsaken by his brothers, and sold as a slave. Accused of crimes that he didn't commit, put in prison for years, he kept the faith in God. How many people would, or could, have endured what he went through and not given up? If he had decided that no one cared and that he was alone he might have become bitter and acted in a sinful manner. He knew that he was not alone for God was with him all along the way.

Today we are often blinded by the world and the evils on every side. Many who go to church don't have the obedience and faith to follow the Lord when things go wrong. Faith to obey only when everything is going well is not much faith at all. Satan will cause a person to become dissatisfied with life, and with the church if he is not living close to the Lord. Then he will usually stop reading the scriptures, praying, and going to church. The spiritual lion has separated him from the flock and if he will not hear the master's call and return he will die. This is not a pretty picture but it is a realistic picture of what happens.

Maybe we will not have the support from friends and family that we think we should have. People sometimes let us down. It may be that they are going through problems of their own. We need to remem-

ber that we are never alone for the Lord is always near. If we can focus on him and not on our problems we will see that he has never forsaken us. The spiritual lion, Satan, likes to make us feel alone, weak, and helpless. A person in such a state is in great danger of falling away and giving up.

If we think about it, I think that we can see that if we truly feel alone in our battles we will be made to feel that the Lord has left us too. It is terrible to see someone who thinks that God has given up on him and has left him to live on his own. Such a person is then convinced that there is no hope and slips further into despair. He gets farther and farther from hope and help. I don't care how long you have been a believer in Jesus, any of us is a target for Satan. If we think that we are too strong in faith, too close to God, or too good to fall, watch out danger is near!

We also need to remember that we are not alone in our trials. Just as he said in verse nine, all our brethren also face temptations and trials. Many folks are made to think that no one knows, or faces, trials like what they are going through. It is not true for all people that look to Jesus face the attacks of Satan. Our enemy is strong and we know this for a fact, but our Lord is stronger by far and is able to help us to overcome our foe. Keep the faith and you will have the victory.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

**DAVID'S fighting courage**  
SAUL, IN SEEKING A WAY TO SAFEGUARD HIS KINGDOM FROM DAVID, HAS NOW THOUGHT OF A PLAN IN WHICH HE WILL USE HIS DAUGHTER, MICHAL, TO RID HIMSELF OF DAVID...

SO NOW, DAVID, EVEN THOUGH MERAB IS WEDDED TO ANOTHER, THOU SHALT YET BECOME SON-IN-LAW TO THE KING!

BUT NEVER KING - FOR THOU SHALT BE DEAD!

NOW, GO AND SPEAK SECRETLY WITH DAVID AND SAY, THE KING HATH DELIGHT IN THEE... THEREFORE BE THE KING'S SON-IN-LAW!

THIS WE SHALL DO, O KING!

...AND LATER...

THOU SAYEST, BE THE KING'S SON-IN-LAW! AND IT SEEMETH TO YOU AN EASY THING - BUT I AM POOR! HOW THEN CAN I PAY A DOWRY FOR SAUL'S DAUGHTER?!

AND SAUL IS INFORMED OF WHAT DAVID SAID...

ON THIS MANNER SPOKE DAVID!

THIS SHALL YE SAY TO DAVID, "THE KING DESIRETH NO DOWRY - BUT KILL FOR HIM A HUNDRED PHILISTINES - THIS SHALL BE THY DOWRY!"

JOHN LEHTI

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